

Application No.: 10/767,029

Amendment After Final dated: December 22, 2006

Reply to Office Action dated: September 22, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-13 and 27-30 are pending in the application. Claims 14-26 were previously cancelled. Claims 27-30 are allowed. Claims 2-5 are objected to. Claims 1, 6-8, 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Inaba (US 5,844,753). Claims 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Inaba (US 5,844,753). Claim 2 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 31-42 are added.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Office Action allowance of claims 27-30 and the indication that claims 2-5 contain allowable subject matter. *See* Office Action dated 3/28/2006, paragraphs 9 & 10. To expedite the prosecution of this case, Applicants hereby amend the claim 1 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 2; therefore, claim 1 is now allowable. Claims 3-13 are allowable for depending from an allowable base claim. Furthermore, allowable claim 5, including its allowable subject matter, is rewritten in independent form in new claim 31; therefore, claim 31 is allowable. Claims 32-42 are allowable for depending from an allowable base claim. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of pending claims 1-13 and 27-30 in future continuation applications.

Request for Allowance

It is believed that this Amendment places the application in condition for allowance, and early favorable consideration of this Amendment is earnestly solicited.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

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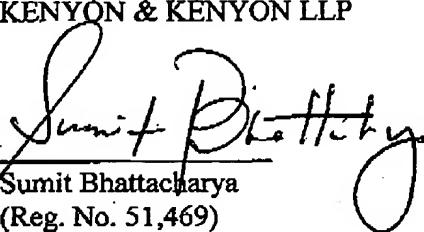
The Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees, or credit any overpayments, to

Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

KENYON & KENYON LLP

By:


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(Reg. No. 51,469)

Dated: December 22, 2006

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